

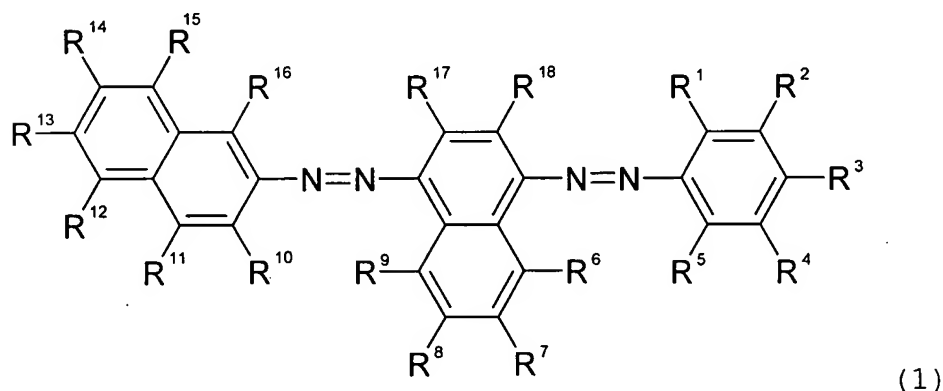
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown in the following listing.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Aqueous~~ An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension, ~~characterised in that it contains~~ comprising at least one gas black, an azo compound of ~~general~~ formula 1,



wherein R<sup>1</sup> - R<sup>18</sup> may be identical or different and are members selected from the group consisting ~~consist~~ of hydrogen, hydrophilic or hydrophobic groups, acceptor or donor substituents or portions of aliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic, acyclic, cyclic or ~~multiply~~ multiple cyclic systems with acceptor, donor, hydrophilic or hydrophobic groups, and water.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Aqueous~~ The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the gas black has a volatile matter content

(950°C) of < 21 % by weight, a BET surface area of 80 to 350 m<sup>2</sup>/g, a primary particle size of 8 to 40 nm and a DBP number of 40 to 200 ml/100 g

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Aqueous~~ The aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the gas black content is < 30 % by weight.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Aqueous~~ An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the azo compound content of ~~general~~ formula 1 is < 5 % by weight.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Aqueous~~ An aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the azo compound of ~~general~~ formula 1 contains less than 30 % by weight contamination.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The Aqueous~~ aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the azo compound of ~~general~~ formula 1 contains less than 10 % by weight salt.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The Aqueous~~ aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the azo compound is a member selected from the group consisting of:

2-[[4-[(1-hydroxy-6-phenylamino-3-sulpho-naphthalen-2-yl)azo]-6-sulpho-naphthalen-1-yl]azo]-5-methyl-benzene-1,4-disulphonic acid,

5-[4-(4-(7-[[2-ethoxy-4-(4-methyl-2-sulpho-phenylazo)-6-sulpho-naphthalen-1-yl]azo]-8-hydroxy-3,6-disulpho-naphthalen-1-ylamino)-6-phenylsulphanyl-[1,3,5]triazin-2-ylamino)-phenylazo]-2-hydroxy-benzoic acid [[or]] and

tetrasodium-6-amino-4-hydroxy-3-[[7-sulphonato-4-[(4-sulphonatophenyl)azo]-1-naphth-1-yl]azo]naphthalene-2,7-disulphonate.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The Aqueous~~ aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the azo compound contains less than 30 % by weight contamination and less than 10 % by weight salt.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The Aqueous~~ aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that it~~ which additionally contains ~~biocides~~ at least one of a biocide, a wetting agents and/or additives agent or an additive.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The Aqueous~~ aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the wetting agent is a member selected from the group consisting of fatty alcohol ethoxylate, polyacrylic acid, ~~or/and~~ polyacrylic acid derivatives, ~~thereof~~ copolymer containing acrylic acid, acrylic acid derivatives, styrenes, styrene derivatives, ~~and/or~~ polyethers, lignin sulphonate, alkyl benzene sulphonate, naphthalene sulphonic acid derivative, copolymer containing maleic acid anhydride ~~and/or~~ maleic acid derivatives ~~or combinations of said wetting agents~~ and mixtures thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The Aqueous~~ aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the wetting agent content is between 0 and 1 % by weight.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The Aqueous~~ aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive is an alcohol, glycol, glycol ether, heterocycle or glycerol.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~The Aqueous~~ aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 9, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive content is < 30 % by weight.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~The Aqueous~~ aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that it may be~~ which is free from wetting agent, the content of the azo compound of general formula I ~~may be~~ is between 0.1 and 1 % by weight and the salt content of the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension is less than 2500 ppm.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process for producing the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ comprising dispersing the gas black and the soluble azo compound of general formula 1 ~~are dispersed~~ in water.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ The process for producing the aqueous, colloidal ~~pigment gas black~~ suspension according to claim 15, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the ~~dispersion~~ dispersing is carried out ~~using~~ in a bead ~~mills~~ mill, ultrasound equipment, high-pressure homogenisers homogenizer, microfluidisers microfluidiser, Ultra Turrax or comparable ~~units~~ unit.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of~~ A process for making a composition of matter comprising mixing the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1 ~~[[in]]~~ into inks, ink jet inks, paints, printing inks, latices, textiles, leather, adhesives, silicones, plastics materials, concrete ~~and~~ or construction materials.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Ink, characterised in that it contains~~ An ink composition comprising a vehicle and the aqueous, colloidal gas black suspension according to claim 1.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Ink~~ The ink according to claim 18, ~~characterised in that~~  
wherein the content of azo compound of ~~general~~ formula 1 is between 0.01 and 0.5 % by weight.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Ink~~ The ink according to claim 18, ~~characterised in that it is~~  
which is free from wetting agent, the content of the azo compound of ~~general~~ formula ~~may be~~ is  
between 0.01 and 0.5 % by weight and the salt content of the ink is less than 250 ppm.